

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 INR-10 PA-01 SP-02
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R 031330Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8750
INFO AMCONSUL CAPETOWN
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LOLONGWE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 6874

CAPETOWN FOR EMBASSY

LONDON FOR SEITZ

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDEV RH NI
SUBJECT: RHODESIA: GARB'S MEETING IN LONDON WITH SITHOLE
SUPPORTERS

REF: STATE 134813

1. BRONSON DEDE, PERSONAL ASSISTANT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
COMMISSIONER GARBA, INFORMED CHARGE JUNE 2 THAT GARBA
DID NOT MEET WITH SITHOLE IN LONDON RECENTLY (REFTEL)
BECAUSE SITHOLE HAD TO DEPART BEFORE GARBA ARRIVED.
GARBA DID TALK, HOWEVER, TO THREE MEMBERS OF THE
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CENTRAL COMMITTEE OS SITHOLE'S PARTY, ONE OF WHOM IS
THE CO-MINISTER OF DEFENSE.

2. DEDE SAID THAT GARBA HAD BEEN AMAZED TO DISCOVER
HOW POORLY INFORMED SITHOLE'S COLLEAGUES WERE RE-
GARDING THE ATTITUDES OF VARIOUS COUNTRIES TOWARDS
THE RHODESIAN PROBLEM. THEIR OVERALL OUTLOOK WAS

THAT THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PLAN IS A GRAND CONSPIRACY ON THE PART OF THE PATRIOTIC FRONT, THE FRONT LINE STATES, NIGERIA, THE US, THE UK, THE OAU AND THE UN TO INSTALL NKOMO AS HEAD OF STATE IN ZIMBAWBWE. ACCORDING TO DEDE, GARBA WENT TO GREAT LENGTHS IN ASSURING THEM THAT SUCH FEARS WERE GROUNDLESS AND THAT THE WHOLE INTENT OF THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PLAN WAS TO PROVIDE ALL PARTIES WITH A FAIR CHANCE IN FAIR ELECTIONS. HE EMPHASIZED THAT NIGERIA AT THE OAU MEETING IN LIBREVILLE HAD SUCCESSFULLY DEFEATED THE CONCEPT OF UNDERWRITING POLITICAL SUPPORT FOR THE PATRIOTIC FRONT. GARBA REQUESTED SITHOLE'S COLLEAGUES TO GET IN TOUCH WITH LEADING MEMBERS OF MUZOREWA'S GROUP AND PASS ON TO THEM THE GIST OF THE DISCUSSIONS IN LONDON.

3. ACCORDING TO DEDE, GARBA THINKS THAT SITHOLE'S COLLEAGUES MIGHT NOT BE AVERSE TO PARTICIPATING IN AN ALL PARTIES' CONFERENCE IF THEY COULD FIGURE OUT SOME WAY OF DOING SO WITHOUT GIVING EVERYONE THE IMPRESSION THAT THEY THINK THE INTERNAL SETTLEMENT IS COLLAPSING.

4. IN A SEPARATE CONVERSATION THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF MEA'S AFRICA DEPARTMENT HAD TOLD CHARGE THAT ANOTHER COLLEAGUE OF SITHOLE'S HAD JUST SENT WORD CONFIDENTIAL

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FROM NAIROBI THAT HE WOULD LIKE TO COME TO LAGOS TO TALK WITH THE FMG. DEDE WAS NOT YET AWARE OF THIS BUT COMMENTED THAT THE FMG HAD TO BE CAUTIOUS, BECAUSE OF EXTERNAL APPEARANCES, ABOUT MEETING WITH SITHOLE SUPPORTERS IN LAGOS.

5. COMMENT: IT APPEARS THAT A PATTERN OF INTERMITTENT COMMUNICATION IS DEVELOPING BETWEEN GARBA AND THE SITHOLE GROUP THROUGH WHICH THE FMG IS SENDING INFORMATION AND ADVICE WHICH MAY HAVE A HELPFUL EFFECT.

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